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Identical letters dated 18 September 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to convey to you the following:

While certain international and regional actors insist on deceiving the international community with regard to the situation in Syria, the situation is, in fact, quite clear and supported by statistical information. The Syrian Arab Army and the law enforcement forces have lost thousands of men as a result of terrorist operations. The director of Tishrin Military Hospital in Damascus stated that 60 per cent of the victims had been shot dead and another 35 per cent had died in explosions, while the rest had been decapitated or had their throats cut.

The armed terrorist groups have also abducted several soldiers of the Syrian Arab Army in order to compel them to "defect". For example, Major General Faraj al-Maqt was abducted by an armed group on 2 July 2012 and remains in their custody to this day because he has refused to renounce his country. Members of the armed and law enforcement forces have also been abducted, in order to compel their families to pay ransom or, otherwise, in order to be tortured savagely and then killed.

Official statistics indicate that, between 17 February 2012 and 12 August 2012 alone, some 1,975 soldiers or members of the law enforcement forces were abducted or killed. That number does not include those who were liberated by the competent authorities or those whose bodies were discovered after they had been killed by the armed groups. The information available indicates 16 of the abductees are officer recruits, 168 are officers, 1,215 are ordinary soldiers and 576 are non-commissioned officers.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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